



United States Department of Agriculture

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

December 19, 2018

**Delivered via Electronic Mail**

Office of the Chief  
Information Officer

**Alexander Rony**

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW  
Washington, DC  
20250

Sierra Club  
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

Email: [63620-83111138@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:63620-83111138@requests.muckrock.com)

Re: Final Response for FOIA Request No. 2019-DA-00943-F

Dear Mr. Rony:

This is the Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request seeking emails "between Sam Clovis and Matthew Whitaker from September 22, 2017 to May 4, 2018" and "to or from Sam Clovis from January 20, 2017 to May 4, 2018 with 'Whitaker' in the email body."

Your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) telecommunications provider Client Experience Center (CEC). CEC performs network services for OCIO to include electronic messaging operations, electronic calendars, blackberry, mobile device management (MDM), file and print, remote access, voice, network, service desk, and other application services.

No responsive records were found as a result of the search.

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 days of the date of this letter. You may appeal by email at [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov) or by mail to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Whitten Building, Room 209-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0103. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The DFO will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above, a copy of the original request, the DFO's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."


Alexander Rony  
FOIA Case No. 2019-DA-00943-F

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Ravoyne Payton at [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about its FOIA mediation services. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Oyegunle at (202) 694-5982, or [aja.oyegunle@usda.gov](mailto:aja.oyegunle@usda.gov) or [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov). For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at [www.dm.usda.gov/foia](http://www.dm.usda.gov/foia).

Sincerely,



Alexis R. Graves  
Departmental FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer